

Appl. No.: 09/918,617
Amdt. Dated: 03/29/2004
Off. Act. Dated: 01/28/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. **Election between Inventions I and II.**

The Applicant hereby elects Invention I, drawn to an apparatus. Claims 1-23 read on the elected invention. This election is made without traverse. Claim 24 has been canceled.

2. **Election between Species "a" Species "b".**

The Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species "a" of FIG. 4. Claims 2 and 13 expressly read on the elected species. In addition, Claims 1, 4-12 and 15-23 read on the elected species.

The species election requirement is traversed for the reason that the Examiner states that currently no claim is generic. The Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner is not correct on this point. Independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 recite a "roller" without limitation as to its particular configuration and are generic to both species.

Therefore, each of the pending independent claims is generic to both species, as are Claims 2, 5-12 and 15-23, and Claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-23 should be examined together.

3. **Election between Species "c" and Species "d".**

The Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species "d" of FIG. 8. Claims 8 and 19 expressly read on the elected species. In addition, Claims 1-6, 9-17 and 19-23 read on the elected species.

The species election requirement is traversed for the reason that the Examiner states that currently no claim is generic. The Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner is not correct on this point. Claims 1-6, 9-17 and 20-23 are generic to both species. Therefore, Claims 1-6, 8-17 and 19-23 should be examined together.

4. **Election between Species "e", "f" and "g".**

The applicant was required to elect between Species "e" of FIG. 9, Species "f" of FIG. 11 and Species "g" of FIG. 10. Claims 9 and 20 read on Species "e", Claims 10 and 21 read on Species "f", and Claims 11 and 22 read on Species "g".

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In response, the Applicant has canceled Claims 9-11 and 20-22 without prejudice to pursuing those claims in this or a continuation application and without disclaiming the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, no election is necessary at this time.

Furthermore, the species election requirement is traversed for the reason that the Examiner states that currently no claim is generic. The Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner is not correct on this point. Independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 recite a "roller" without limitation as to its particular configuration and are generic to all three species of impression patterns. The particular impression pattern on the roller is not an essential feature of an embodiment of the invention.

5. Amendment of Claims.

The Applicant has amended the claims throughout to place the claims in a more standardized format used by the undersigned and to remove unnecessary limitations. No new matter has been added, and the such amendments are not made for the purpose of addressing any prior art or to overcome any defect in the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112.

6. New Claims 25-28.

The Applicant has added new generic Claims 25-28 in a form that does not use means plus function language under §112, paragraph six. Claim 25 is based on the subject matter of Claims 1 and 5, and Claim 26 is based on the subject matter of Claim 4. Similarly, Claim 27 is based on the subject matter of Claims 12 and 16, and Claim 28 is based on the subject matter of Claim 15. No new matter has been added.

7. Conclusion.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

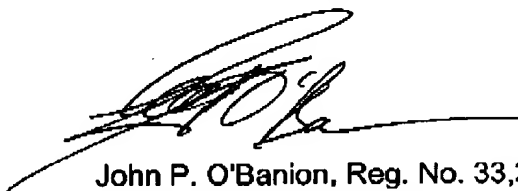
The Applicant also respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner

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in the event that there are questions regarding this response, or if the next action on the merits is not an allowance of all pending claims.

Date: 3/29/04

Respectfully submitted,



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